

SAINT LOUIS BIRD CLUB

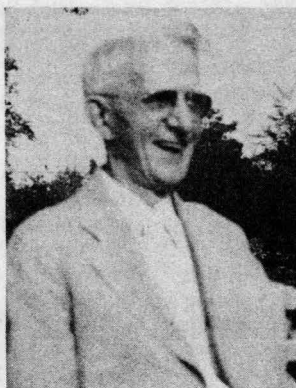
BULLETIN

VOL. 14, No. 4

October, 1945

STERLING P. JONES

When the St. Louis Bird Club decided to honor a citizen annually for distinguished service to the very worthy cause of conservation, quite naturally the name of Sterling P. Jones was first on the list. Mr. Jones will receive the citation on Oct. 29th when W. J. Breckenridge of Minneapolis presents "Fraternizing with Feathers" at the Soldan High School. Sterling P. Jones, familiarly known as "Espy Jay" by a host of warm friends (from his initials, S.P.J.), has long been active in nature study, boy scout work, and in boosting conservation. He has faithfully served as a member of the Webster Groves Nature Study, and Missouri Audubon Societies and many other nature and conservation organizations in addition to holding honorary membership in our club. His first love is birds, and he is the author of several editions of a check list of the birds of the St. Louis region. This handy list has become indispensable to birders of this area. Mr. Jones as boy scout counselor has passed judgment on scores of scouts seeking to pass their tests in bird knowledge, and he has been instrumental in starting many youths on the pleasant road of nature study because of his enthusiasm and patience. Through capable work as editor of the Webster Groves Nature Study Society's "Nature Notes" Mr. Jones has done much to make its readers conservation minded. We are sure none of Mr. Jones' many friends will miss the October 29 lecture at which time fitting tribute will be paid to the first recipient of the St. Louis Bird Club Conservation Citation.



STERLING P. JONES

BRECKENRIDGE LECTURE

In tribute to Sterling P. Jones, Dr. W. J. Breckenridge of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History, Minneapolis, will present "Fraternizing with Feathers" on Monday, Oct. 29 at Soldan High School at 8:15 P.M. This colorful motion picture parades across the screen a variety of animal life: the hunter wasp, frogs, toads, and birds. Concentrating almost entirely upon birds, he shows studies of cuckoos, tree swallows, crested flycatchers, several woodpeckers, and the pied-billed grebe. Particularly interesting are the sequences involving the spotted sandpipers and the broken wing act of the killdeer. Included also are shots of various species of ducks, scenes of migrating swarms of geese in the western part of Minnesota, and a series on the migrating whistling swans. It will be our good fortune to observe an outstanding record of the habits of the sandhill crane. These pictures were taken last spring in western Nebraska where huge concentrations of cranes were encountered. You will see them in immense flocks, wheeling and circling in spectacular aerial maneuvers; you will witness their strange and famous dance as they obligingly perform a number of different step variations. Dr. Breckenridge is now serving as Curator of the Minnesota Museum of Natural History. He is one of the foremost bird artists in our country and has gained particular renown through his masterful etchings. An ardent conservationist, an entertaining lecturer with an artist's appreciation and love for birds, Dr. Breckenridge is a happy selection for our October 29th meeting. Soldan High School. 8:15 P.M.



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We are pleased to announce the addition of James Earl Comfort to our Editorial Staff. Earl will edit the Observations' page. And who could be better qualified than he! His long and varied experiences in the field make him of significant value to our staff.

BACKYARD SAFARI

The 1945-46 season got off to a flying start on Sept. 25 with Murl Deusing entertaining over 800 members of the Club at Soldan High School. His all-color motion picture, "Back Yard Safari", was a brilliant commentary on the wealth of natural history to be discovered at our door. Once more Murl Deusing's charming children and inquisitive Irish setter lent a delightfully informal note to the film as they trekked through spring, summer, and autumn in search of African specimens in the Deusing back yard. The audience suspected their cobra to be a hog-nose snake, and the hippopotamus did slightly resemble a frog's head protruding above the water, but the assembly was in such a mood that, by the time a striped caterpillar crawled across the screen, there was no doubt but what it was a zebra. The bulk of the film was made up of fascinating studies of the life cycles of the bumble bee, mud dauber wasp, barn swallow, flicker, and many other creatures . . . a tribute to the ingenuity and unbelievable patience of the lecturer.

REMAINING LECTURES

The remaining lectures of the 1945-46 series of Audubon Screen Tours listed below represent the nation's best in natural history lecturers with a superlative assortment of all-color outdoor motion pictures.

Oct. 29, Monday. Tribute to Sterling P. Jones. "Fraternizing with Feathers": W. J. Breckenridge of Minneapolis, Minnesota. Soldan High School. 8:15 P.M.

Nov. 28, Wednesday. "Fun with Birds": Laurel Reynolds, Ft. Eustis, Virginia. Soldan High School. 8:15 P. M.

Jan. 3, Thursday. "Wilderness Mischief": Olin S. Pettingill, Jr., Northfield, Minn. Soldan High School. 8:15 P.M.

Feb. 1, Friday. "From Coast to Crest": Alexander Sprunt, Jr., Charleston, S. C. Soldan High School. 8:15 P.M.

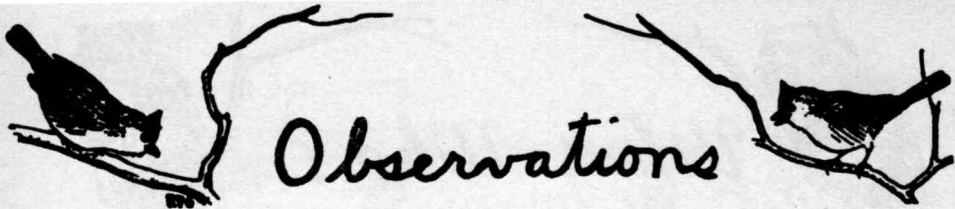
March 27, Wednesday. "Land of the Longhorns": Alfred M. Bailey of Denver, Colo. Soldan High School. 8:15 P.M.

April 25, Thursday. "Outdoor Symphony": Bert Harwell, Berkeley, California. Soldan High School. 8:15 P.M. BIRD CLUB LOYALTY NIGHT. Loyalty contributions asked.

May 20, Monday. "Happy Valley": Tom and Arlene Hadley of Detroit. Brown Hall, Washington University. 8:15 P.M.

LOOKING BACK

The last two lectures of the 1944-45 season were held after the publication of the April-May issue of the St. Louis Bird Club Bulletin, and hence we are taking this, our first, opportunity to extend the Club's thanks to Dr. A. A. Allen and to Sara and Athos Menaboni. Dr. Allen was our LOYALTY NIGHT lecturer on April 27. His latest film, "Birds on the Home Front", was especially well received. It was indeed an eloquent argument for conservation. On May 21, Sara and Athos Menaboni received members and the public at the St. Louis Art Museum where a group of Mr. Menaboni's paintings were enjoying a highly successful month's exhibition. After the annual business meeting, Sara Menaboni entertained the Club with delightful anecdotes of a bird artist at home and abroad.



Because of average better weather conditions in May the annual St. Louis Bird Club's Forest Park Bird Walks, previously conducted each Sunday in April, were held in May last spring, necessitating a change in the yearly Bird Club census from the first Sunday in the latter month to the last Sunday in April. In spite of the relatively early date of April 29th, which predates the usual spring migration peak, a total of 158 species of birds was reported, six more than were seen in 1944, but, as it was expected the record of 177 seen in 1943 was not endangered. Consequently there were no individual lists of 100 or better for the first time in several years. Wayne Short and Helen Einspanier led the field with 99 species each. Approximately 100 members and friends of the organization took part in the census, covering various areas within a radius of 50 miles of St. Louis. The club was assisted by the Trail Rangers at Michael, Ill., under the able leadership of the Rev. George M. Link, the Webster Groves Nature Study Society, R. Ludlow Hill at "Hill's Hill" and students of Prof. George Happ at Elsah, Ill. Best find of the day was a Wilson's phalarope by one group in St. Charles Co., Mo. Exceptional finds were some fifty long-billed dowitchers, also at St. Charles Co., a bald eagle at Michael, Ill., and a yellow-crowned night heron at Creve Coeur Lake, St. Louis Co. Other good finds were 60 American pipits, 5 red-breasted mergansers, a duck hawk, a Virginia rail and a common loon and Forster's, common and Caspian Terns. When the early date and gas rationing are considered this was a remarkable list. The small territories covered resulted in several species of common birds usually still lingering in our area being off the list. It could easily have been much larger by the addition of several early species such as: gray-cheeked thrush, several of the warblers, bobolink, scarlet tanager, purple finch, Savannah, vesper, and fox sparrows. With more leisure time and an unlimited supply of gas available, that record of 177 will be shaded probably in the near future.

Jimmy Jackson missed our census last spring due to the fact that Naval Reserve training kept him at Fulton, Mo. on that date. The following weekend (May 6th) however, he journeyed to St. Charles County with Ken Niewoehner and Richard Reichle and found some of the birds previously reported and many more waiting for him. They recorded three Wilson's phalaropes, 60-odd long-billed dowitchers, white-fronted and snow geese, and red-breasted mergansers.

* * *

Several Baird's sandpipers have been seen this fall, both at Creve Coeur Lake and in Illinois near the new Jefferson Barracks bridge. These shorebirds were seen by Richard Reichle, Jr., Vincent Castelli and Earl Comfort.

* * *

Dr. and Mrs. Hofsommer reported a pair of blue grosbeaks at their garden in Webster Groves during a period of three weeks in May and June. Miss Beulah Bedell verified these birds.

* * *

Few persons are able to combine work with pleasure in the manner of James W. Cunningham, of Jefferson City, Mo., whose enviable work in mosquito control sends him over most of our state. Mr. Cunningham, in an article in The Missouri Audubon Society's "Bluebird" reports a red-cockaded woodpecker, Bachman's sparrows and a Swainson's and several hooded warblers. Some of these species are seldom, if ever, seen in the St. Louis Area.

* * *

During August, several Club members reported seeing the following near Dupu, Ill.: one snowy egret, 300 American egrets, 30 great blue herons, one black-crowned night heron, one sanderling, a Wilson's snipe, spotted sandpipers, solitary sandpipers, lesser yellowlegs, pectoral sandpipers, least sandpipers, and semipalmated sandpipers.



Who's Who?



Kay Wood had the misfortune to have an accidental fall on July 4th at Greenwich, Conn., resulting in hospitalization. She may be addressed at Greenwich Hospital, Greenwich, Conn., where she is recovering nicely.

* * *

Leonard Hall introduced Murl Deusing at the first lecture of the season on Sept. 25.

* * *

It would surprise you to know the extent of work required to keep our organization running efficiently. To our faithful committee members, who help make the Bird Club possible, we are indebted. Helen Einspanier again heads the Supply Committee and is assisted by Hattie Ettinger. Marian Freer of the Door Committee coordinates this imposing group: Anne Bayha, Jack Battenberg, A. D. DeVilbiss, Mrs. Gertrude Drury, Marie Fisher, Vivian Henry, Elizabeth Golttermann, Norman Jones, Ed Lebeau, Arthur H. Pfaff, Mildred Reese, and Robert Watson. Ethel Von Hahn, chairman of the Membership Committee, is aided by Helen Henke, Cecilia M. Lehmann, and Grace Rinderknecht. The Contact Committee, handling newspaper and radio publicity, local and national contact, and the mailing of bulletins and posters, is composed of Mildred Reese, chairman, Louise Barbee, and Linus Hoffmeister.

We extend a warm welcome to the following new members who have been recorded for the 1945-46 Season as our bulletin goes to press: J. Kathleen Allison, Eberhard Anheuser, Arthur W. Bagge, Concordia Bode, Katherine Bode, Mrs. I. F. Boyd, Jr., Mary Braun, F. J. Bullivant, George W. Burt, Rhoda L. Christernsson, Ellen Cone, Mildred Cunningham, Irma Debus, Vera Debus, A. D. DeVilbiss, Rosine Dickman, Berte L. Doering, Mrs. Robert Elman, Wm. H. Engls-mann, Anne M. Evans, Louise Erbe, Frieda Fornuff, Mrs. Laura Fritson, Mrs. Edward S. Funsten, Mrs. E. W. Grove, Jr., Mrs. A. E. Hammerstein, L. R. Hartt, Mrs. I. A. Hedges, Eleanor Hough, D. E. Huntington, Mrs. D. E. Huntington, D. E. Huntington, Jr., C. R. Huntington, Emmet Ben Johnson, H. S. Keltner, Mrs. Virgil Kimmey, Florence E. Kissner, Albert Levin, Mrs. Bertha Ludwig, Mrs. John C. McGuire, Billy McMillan, Oma F. Martin, Howard L. May, Lillie H. May, Merrydelle G. May, Bradford Miles, Jeannette Miles, Paul S. Miller, Mrs. George E. Mix, E. J. Nitzschmann, Mercedes E. Nitzschmann, Leonard F. Paulson, Mrs. Melissa F. Paulson, Elsa A. Reinke, Mrs. Antoinette Rothen-buecher, Ruth Rowe, Helen Schlafly, Martin Schweig, Mrs. Martin Schweig, D. W. Southward, Mrs. D. W. Southward, Bert Sterbenz, Jr., Martha Stifel, C. Bruce Tanner, Jr., Mrs. Lottie Taylor, Hazel L. Tompkins, Johanna Warmbold, Mrs. Frank A. Wehrle, Sophia Weinhausen, Hugo Wurdack and Cecelia Zimmerer.

The St. Louis Bird Club, Ethel Wolfe, Secretary
1607 Continental Bldg.
St. Louis 8, Missouri

Enclosed please find for membership dues as checked.

- ☐ Sustaining Membership, \$10.00: For membership in both the National Audubon Society and its branch, the St. Louis Bird Club, attendance at Club lectures, including two reserved seats, receipt of Audubon Magazine, the Club Bulletin, participation in bird walks and other activities of the two organizations.
- ☐ Regular Membership, \$5.00: Includes all the above except two reserved seats at lectures.
- ☐ Active Membership, \$2.00: For membership in the St. Louis Bird Club only, including its lectures (unreserved seats), bird walks, receipt of Club Bulletin, and participation in all Club activities.
- ☐ Associate Membership, \$1.00: For attendance at lectures (unreserved seats) and participation in bird walks only. Does not include privileges of voting, attendance at the Club's Annual Meeting, receipt of Club Bulletin or participation in events other than lectures and bird walks.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

(Kindly make all checks payable to the St. Louis Bird Club)